

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 11 and 13-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 8-10 and 12 have been canceled.

The Office Action dated May 7, 2004, has been received and carefully reviewed. In that Office Action, it was indicated that claims 13-17 were allowable, and the undersigned thanks the examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 2-6, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Yokouchi. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Yokouchi and further in view of Toma. Claims 7 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are indicated to be allowable if amended to include the limitations of their base claims. Each issue raised in the Office Action is addressed below.

Claim 8 has been objected to. Claim 8 has been cancelled by the above amendment.

Claims 2-6, 8 and 9 are rejected as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Yokouchi. By the above amendment, claims 4, 8 and 9 have been cancelled, and claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 3 and 6 have been made dependent on independent claim 7 and should be allowable for the same reason as claim 7. Therefore, only claim 5 is addressed in connection with

this rejection.

By the above amendment, claim 5 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4 and also to require a plurality of transfer devices arranged in a column direction with every eight of the plurality of transfer devices forming one unit and a plurality of electrodes provided in the signal reading out section correspondingly to the plurality of transfer devices so that every eight of the plurality of electrodes is interconnected to each other. The relationship between the transfer devices and the electrodes corresponding thereto is now more clearly defined, and it is respectfully submitted that this arrangement is not shown or suggested by the art of record. The withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claim 10 has been cancelled by the above amendment.

The Office Action indicated that claims 7 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. This has been accomplished by the above amendment, and these claims are now submitted to be allowable. Claims 2, 3 and 6 now depend from claim 7 and are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 7.

Conclusion

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated May 7, 2004, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 2, 3, 5-7, 11 and 13-17 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, the reconsideration and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

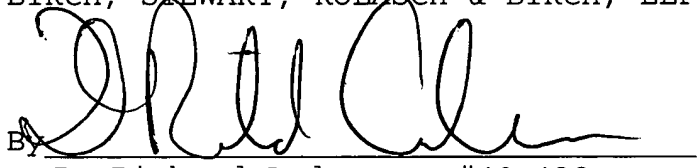
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott T. Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/492,146

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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